

## SIX BIDDERS COMPETE FOR PUMPING STATION

Lowest Competitor Asks Two Hundred and Seventy-nine Thousand Dollars for the Work.

Proposals for the construction of the sewage pumping station at the foot of New Jersey Avenue southeast were opened at the District Building yesterday at noon. There were seven competing bidders, four of them being local firms. The proposals were based upon plans of the building drawn by C. A. Didden, the architect, and were submitted under two general heads—the substructure and the building proper, the Commissioners reserving the right to award the work as a whole or to two separate contractors.

The bidders with the prices named for the superstructure were: Pennsylvania Bridge Company, of Beaver Falls, Pa., \$334,737; Hermann Probst, New York, \$358,000; Richardson & Burgess, Washington, \$339,350; George A. Fuller Company, Washington, \$325,934; Ambrose B. Stannard, New York, \$279,000; and Brennan Construction Company, Washington, \$308,000.

The proposals for the sub-work were submitted under fourteen heads, including excavation, masonry, conduits, screen, and sediment chambers, gate wells, and pump wells. The firms mentioned submitted proposals for this work and the superstructure, while Andrew Gleason put in a bid for the substructure alone.

### An Important Step.

The award of the contract for this building will mark an important step in the sewage-disposal system of the city. The pumping station will be the heart of the system. It will stand at almost the lowest point in the District, at the confluence of the large trunk and intercepting sewers which convey the drainage from the city proper, from Georgetown, from Tenleytown, from Brightwood, and from all points, except the far western and eastern portions of the District. The sewage is brought down by gravity, and when the pumping station is finished will be raised about twenty-one feet and discharged into the Eastern Branch temporarily until the proposed syphon under the river is built, when the drainage will be carried down to Magazine Point. There the river is wide, and the volume of water such that the sewage will be diffused so as to avoid being a nuisance.

The trunk and intercepting sewers have been under construction for several years and some of them are completed. The Tiber Creek and New Jersey Avenue sewer is practically finished and work has been started upon another large sewer to pass up to C Street, to the Mall, diagonally across it to Fifteenth Street, and thence westward to Twenty-second Street. This sewer will intercept the drainage of all that part of the city and carry it down to the pumping station.

### Large Underground Vat.

The general plan of the station is a large underground vat for the reception of the sewage from the sewers. It passes through the screens into the pump wells and is there taken through the pumps upward to the syphon. The mechanism is simple, the pumps being of a large and powerful pattern. Appropriations have been made already for the building and its machinery. A portion of the machinery is under contract with the Allis-Chalmers Company, of Milwaukee, Wis. This contract was for \$320,000. This includes the triple expansion pumps and the principal part of the gate machinery. Congress has appropriated \$375,000 in addition for the building, and has authorized the Commissioners to enter into contracts amounting to \$750,000 on account of the building and its equipment. The total cost of the station, including the site, will be about \$335,000.

The sewage-disposal system was devised by a board of sanitary engineers appointed by President Harrison. The appointment of the commission was in response to many petitions to the District Commissioners and to the committees in Congress. The frequent flooding of cellars in the lower portions of the city through the backing of the high water from the river into the trunk sewers became unbearable and Congress was induced to take action. The sewage commission was composed of Rudolph Hering, Samuel M. Gray, and Frederick P. Stearns. During the greater part of the time it was engaged upon the problem David E. McComb, the present Superintendent of Sewers, was an assistant. The commission stated the problem before it in the following terms in its report:

"The problem we find placed before us is to recommend a comprehensive system of sewerage and drainage which will effectually remove the sewage from the inhabited parts of the District, and dispose of it in an unobjectionable manner, both to those in and out of the District, and which will prevent the rain water of heavy storms from causing inconvenience and damage by flooding; and further, a provision in connection with the foregoing requirements for preventing freshets in the Potomac River from the overflowing of the low areas in the central part of the city."

### Erection of Dikes.

Among other things the commission recommended the erection of dikes along the lower water front to keep back the water when the river should overflow its banks. This work has not been attempted, and probably will not be undertaken for several years. The chances for a direct overflow of the Potomac into the city are remote, and when the flooding of cellars by water backing up in the sewers has been stopped permanently there will be little need for the dikes. For the last five years the efforts of the sewer department have been directed toward the completion of the sewage-disposal system. Work has been pushed forward as rapidly as possible, to the neglect of some of the trunk sewers in the suburban district. It will take at least three years to complete

the pumping station and a year more to lay the syphon. Congress appropriates \$500,000 annually for the work, with an occasional larger amount. When the station and syphon are done, similar amounts of money expended upon trunk sewers will bring them gradually to completion. A large sewer in the bed of Arizona Avenue has been started to supply drainage to the extreme western portions of the District.

### Work Was Suspended.

About a year ago work was suspended upon it, for the reason that it was thought to be better policy to go on with the disposal system at the lower end first. When the Arizona Avenue sewer is finished it will give extensive drainage facilities to Tenleytown and the territory to the south. For many years it is intended that the sewer shall empty into the Potomac, but ultimately its drainage will be intercepted and brought down to the pumping station. A large trunk sewer is in prospect along the line of Rock Creek on the west side and others in the territory north of Mt. Pleasant. It will perhaps be fifteen years before the system is finished in the outlying territory, but within six years the disposal system should be in working order throughout the more settled parts of the District.

East of the Anacostia River a supplemental system of sewers will be constructed later on to provide for the drainage there. This system will work by gravity and empty into the Potomac below Giesboro Point.

### Provision for Emergency.

Speaking of the completed system yesterday Mr. McComb said that when the station is put to work the present sewer outlets will be maintained. They will be fitted with gates and closed at the lower ends, but will be available for use in case of emergency, such as the breaking down of the pumps or machinery in the station. He stated that arrangements would be made also for the overflow of storm water into the river when heavy rains fall. At ordinary times, however, the storm water will be conducted to the station and pumped into the syphon with the sewage.

An incident of the completion of the disposal plant will be the closing and filling of the James Creek Canal. At first a highway will be constructed across the canal in the line of N Street, and later the old ditch will be filled in and this ancient eyesore of South Washington will be no more.

One of the results looked for by the completion of the plant is the decrease of typhoid fever and malaria in the lower parts of the city. While the germs of this disease may be largely due to the drinking of Potomac water, the reports of the Health Department point to the fact that some of it is chargeable to the choked sewerage unable to find proper vent into the river through the present outlets.

### SPARES THE TREE.

On the recommendation of Morris Hacker, Superintendent of Roads, the District Commissioners have declined to grant the request of Benjamin F. Harris for permission to remove a large tree in Philadelphia Street, between Seventh and Eighth Streets. Mr. Hacker in his report said that the tree in question was situated close to the gutter line, and that the travel in Philadelphia Street did not warrant the cutting down of this fine shade tree at present.

## FIRE LOSSES LIGHTER THAN FOR TWO YEARS

Insurance Business Prosperous in Same Proportion.

### MOST DAMAGE AT PATERSON

Advance in Rates Cause Renewed Activity in the Work of Underwriting.

The year 1902 was comparatively a light one in the fire losses of the United States and Canada. Allowing a generous estimate for the month of December in the absence of carefully compiled figures by the underwriters, the total losses were hardly in excess of \$101,000,000. This is about \$9,000,000 less than the losses for 1901, and between \$17,000,000 and \$19,000,000 less than the record of 1900, which was the worst year in the recent history of fire underwriting. The allowance for December, \$13,000,000, arriving at the general total, was \$1,000,000 larger than that of December, 1900.

The losses for the last six months of last year were nearly \$8,000,000 less than in the corresponding period of 1901. The aggregate for the first six months was only \$1,000,000 under the first half of 1901. This remarkable difference between the two periods was largely due to the Paterson and Waterbury conflagrations in February.

There was only one month in which the fire losses exceeded the \$20,000,000 mark. In February the Paterson fire caused over \$7,000,000 damage, while in Waterbury more than \$2,000,000 worth of property was destroyed. In the year 1901 there was only one \$20,000,000 month, and that was when the total jumped up by the \$10,500,000 conflagration in Jacksonville. In 1900 there were two months, each of which showed losses in excess of \$20,000,000. In April of that year the Ottawa and Hull fire destroyed nearly \$13,000,000 of property, and in June the North German Lloyd pier fire in Hoboken contributed a loss of \$6,500,000.

Except the Paterson and Waterbury fires, the worst fires in 1902 were at Atlantic City on April 3, estimated at \$1,500,000 damage, and the loss of \$900,000 on the Armour plant at Chicago.

While in 1900 the abnormal loss was due largely to the Hoboken and Ottawa and Hull fires, the record of 1901, which was unusually heavy, was due to an abnormal number of fires.

November's losses ran up unexpectedly high or the gain would have been still greater. The record for the ten months ending October was fully \$11,000,000 lighter than the corresponding ten months of 1901.

The year was more favorable for the fire insurance companies than any of the preceding three years. There were two considerations for this. There were several bad fires, notably that at Atlantic City, in which much of the property destroyed was wholly or largely without insurance. While the property loss at Paterson was over \$7,000,000, the underwriters paid something like \$3,000,000. The Waterbury insurance loss was about \$750,000 smaller than the property loss.

The other favorable factor was the almost universal advance in fire insurance rates throughout the country. The advance ranged from 25 per cent to 100 per cent, in proportion to the character of the hazards covered, and were the result of the disastrous record of the previous four years. The trouble began in 1898 with a series of rate wars, starting with the dissolution of the Tariff Association of New York. So unprofitable did underwriting become that many insurance companies withdrew from the field in 1901. Instead of these retirements continuing last year, 1902 witnessed the revived activity of Lloyd's concerns and the surplus line companies that did a large business before 1898.

## APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO RELIEVE LOCAL DISTRESS

To the Public: The time has come when the Citizens' Relief Association and the Associated Charities must have additional help. Neither society has yet secured enough money to meet the necessities of an ordinary season's work while the present year's need is unusually large.

The work of these two associations has never been more thoroughly organized and perfected. They are administering, in the highest sense, true charity. They are rendering the right kind of help, promptly and wisely, to those who are in need. They are avoiding, or, in many cases, reforming and upbuilding the imposters and the "unworthy."

We feel certain that this appeal to the public will meet with a generous and adequate response. The fact is more and more becoming well known that the most direct and effective way for people who are disposed to help the needy is to do so through these organizations.

Subscriptions for the Citizens' Relief Association may be sent to Beriah Wilkins, treasurer.

Subscriptions to the Associated Charities may be addressed to John Joy Edson, treasurer, Washington Loan and Trust Company.

JAMES E. FITCH, Chairman;

JOHN JOY EDSON,

RUDOLPH KAUFFMANN,

GEORGE M. STERNBERG,

GEORGE TRUESDELL,

Finance Committee of the Citizens' Relief Association.

ARCHIBALD HOPKINS, Chairman;

S. W. WOODWARD,

HENRY F. BLOUNT,

THOMAS W. SMITH,

FREDERICK L. MOORE,

Finance Committee of the Associated Charities.

## THINKS JOURNALISM A PRECARIOUS PROFESSION

Magazine Writer Beats Wife Who Wishes Him to Make More Money.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Thomas R. Dawley, a magazine writer, of 324 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, was charged yesterday by his wife, Rosalie, in the Gates Avenue court, that borough, with beating her with a rope's end.

After the couple came from Washington two months ago to make their home in Hancock Street, they discovered that they were living near the house in which Albert Latimer was murdered. Mrs. Dawley did not like that neighborhood, it is said, and many harsh words passed between husband and wife. Moreover, according to Mrs. Dawley, her husband was not making much money out of writing for the magazines, and she advised him to take up some other line of work. This was resented by Mr. Dawley.

Yesterday Mrs. Dawley told Magistrate Furlong that her husband had, without provocation, attacked her on Thursday with a piece of rope and had beaten her so severely that she ran out in the street. Dawley was in court. He admitted that he beat his wife with a rope under great provocation, but denied that he struck her in the face. He said he was working on his typewriter in his room, when his wife came in and attacked him. She did not wish him to write for magazines, and had threatened to drive him out of the business.

"I have little sympathy for a man who will strike a woman," remarked Magistrate Furlong, "and I have less for a man who will strike his wife." "I agree with your honor entirely," Dawley replied, meekly, "but it was done under great provocation."

The case was adjourned till Monday.

The police have no record of this couple having lived in Washington, nor are their names in the city directory.

## FAILED TO ANSWER CHARGE OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY

Representative Fox Forfeits Collateral in Police Court.

Representative Albert Fuller Fox, of the Fourth Mississippi district, failed to answer a charge of assault in Police Court yesterday, and his bond of \$10 was declared forfeited. He was accused of an assault on Adolph Schultz, a ladies' tailor, on December 17.

A civil suit against the Congressman will be filed in a few days. Mr. Schultz said he was not satisfied with the Police Court proceedings, and proposes to push his suit for assault and battery. He has employed J. Miller Kenyon as his attorney.

The trouble between the Congressman and the tailor was occasioned by a misunderstanding about a coat for Mrs. Fox.

## COAL DISCOVERY ENRICHES DRESSMAKER

Ex-Member of Royal Band of Germany a Favorite of Prince Henry.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 3.—Mrs. Frederick Hermann, a dressmaker, of 393 Oak Street, has received word that vast coal deposits had been discovered on some land left to her by her father, and thought worthless.

The land is located in Mercer county, Pa., and is said now to be worth \$25,000. Mrs. Hermann and her husband are advanced in years, and were in reduced circumstances, owing to the latter's misfortunes in business speculations.

Mr. Hermann is a musician, and a former member of the Royal Band of Germany. He was a favorite of Prince Henry. When the prince was in Buffalo he expressed joy at meeting the old musician.

## DID NOT KNOW SHE HAD KIDNEY TROUBLE

Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

Gertrude Warner Scott Cured by the Great Kidney Remedy, Swamp-Root.



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Gentlemen: My trouble began with pain in my stomach and back, so severe that it seemed as if knives were cutting me. I was treated by two of the best physicians in the county, and consulted another. None of them suspected that the cause of my trouble was kidney disease. They all told me that I had cancer of the stomach, and would die. I grew so weak that I could not walk any more than a child a month old, and I only weighed ninety pounds. One day my brother saw in a paper your advertisement of Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy. He bought me a bottle at our drug store and I took it. My family could see a change in me, for the better, so they obtained more, and I continued the use of Swamp-Root regularly. I was so weak, thanks to Swamp-Root, and weigh 148 pounds, and am keeping house for my husband and brother. Swamp-Root cured me after the doctors had failed to do me a particle of good.

(Gertrude Warner Scott.) *Gertrude Warner Scott*

Women suffer untold misery because the nature of their disease is not correctly understood; in many cases when doctoring, they are led to believe that womb trouble or female weakness of some sort is responsible for their ills, when, in fact, disordered kidneys are the chief cause of their distressing troubles.

The mild and extraordinary effect of the world-famous kidney and bladder remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. A trial will convince anyone—and you may have a sample bottle sent free, by mail.

## Sample Bottle of Swamp-Root Sent Free.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful remedy, Swamp-Root, sent absolutely free by mail, also a book telling all about Swamp-Root, and containing many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonials received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact their very lives, to the great curative properties of Swamp-Root. Write to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure to say you read this generous offer in The Washington Sunday Times.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular 50-cent and \$1 size bottles at the drug stores everywhere. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

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\$3.75 for a heavy Oak Extension Table; 5 legs, well made and finished; worth \$5.50.



\$3.95 for this Solid Oak Chiffonier; 5 large drawers; good finish; cast trimmings; worth \$6.50.

1,000 yards fancy China Mat. 72c ting. .... worth \$1.50.

75c for Mahogany India Seat; worth \$2.50.

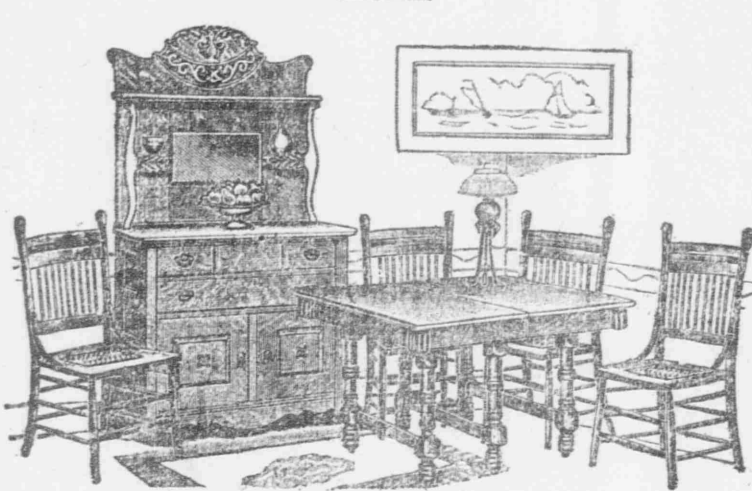
\$1.75 for Mahogany Corner Chairs; worth \$3.50.

\$1.95 for Children's Morris Chairs; worth \$3.50.

25c for Tabourette worth 50cts.

\$3.50 for Ladies' Oak Desk; worth \$5.50.

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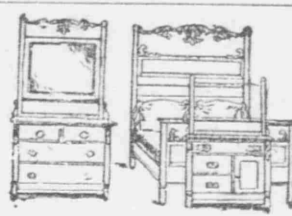
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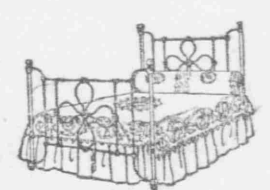
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